

Submitter: Scott Bowen
On Behalf Of: Shelby Atwill soundSTART
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2994

As an Oregon resident and voter, I support this cause and bill. I hope you will as well.

Oregonians health coverage being accessible and affordable is one of the most fundamental pieces to a thriving society. Particularly when considering children.

Any child who is diagnosed with a hearing loss or who has concerns should be entitled to full and affordable access to someone specialized in working with children and their needs for ongoing and routine care, devices and equipment to support them accessing sound and spoken language and the necessary materials to maintain those devices. That specialist is entitled and should be fairly compensated by insurance providers for their expertise, care and materials.

No one paying into a health care policy or trying to use it to see a doctor should have to learn how to navigate the complicated and intentionally confusing insurance system or worry about where to find the funding to pay for these essential services.

No one providing care and services, especially when contracted as in-network, should have to regularly hassle with claims and appeals begging for appropriate coverage and reimbursement for what is essential for delivering care.

It's time to re-balance the scales and let the people of Oregon benefit from contributing their hard work and money into a private structured health care system. Year after year, commercial insurance companies announce record breaking annual revenue margins in the millions. I believe it's time to prioritize the Oregon children, families and audiologists serving them over profits and predatory loopholes.

I hope you agree.